

CLAIMS IN APPLN. NO. 10/014,480 AS AMENDED 12/19/2003

1. (Currently amended) A method for deaerating liquid, ~~especially water~~, that contains air, oxygen, nitrogen, or other gas dissolved therein, by
 - (a) providing a stream of said liquid flowing at a first velocity and at a first pressure in a line having a first cross-sectional area,
 - (b) flowing said stream into and through a pressure reduction region in said line having a second cross-sectional area less than said first cross-sectional area, whereupon in said region the velocity of said stream increases, the pressure of said stream decreases, and gas dissolved in said stream evolves from said stream, and
 - (c) recovering said evolved gas separately from said liquid before it redissolves into said liquid [.]
wherein after said evolved gas is recovered from said liquid, said liquid is recycled to said line upstream of said region.
 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising injecting stripping gas into the stream upstream of said pressure reduction region, and removing said stripping gas from said stream downstream of said pressure reduction region.
 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said the stripping gas is air, nitrogen or carbon dioxide.
 4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises feeding said stream into a separatory vessel wherein said evolved gas and said liquid separate from each other, and said evolved gas is vented out of said vessel.
- 5-7. (Canceled)